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coupling frame 245 comprising two halves 245a and 245b fitted around the lens 244 along a perimeter edge 249 of the lens 244. A plurality of threaded fasteners 251 can be used to secure the coupling frame halves 245a and 245b together. When desired, the coupling frame 245 may be removed, the hood 248 is superpositioned over the full facepiece seal 246, and the coupling frame 245 is replaced and tightened again to secure both the hood 248 and the full facepiece seal 246 along the perimeter edge of the lens 244. Conversely, once configured in the hood mode, the inventive system can be changed to a full facepiece respirator by simply removing the hood. Alternatively, the hood may be replaced by a different hood or a full body respiratory suit 260 (Figure 10).

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2. Please replace the second paragraph on page 10 (the paragraph beginning with "In addition to the coupling frame") with the following paragraph:
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In addition to the coupling frame 245 used to sealably couple an interchangeable face shield component and a body seal as shown in FIG. 6, other fastening devices such as a bracket, a band 256 (FIG. 8), a clamp or a latch 258 (FIG. 9) may be used. Furthermore, various fasteners such as those which employ microstructured sealing mechanisms can be used for the same purpose. These fasteners can be used to seal two opposite surfaces together without the assistance of a separate mechanical fastening device. Among these fasteners are the well known hook-and-loop type fasteners, and mushroom-type hook strips disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,077,870 to Melbye et al. Frictional engagement and/or sealing characteristics between opposed rim portions on cooperative sealing components may also be enhanced by forming one or more of the opposed surfaces with microstructured surface features 254 such as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,508,084 to Reeves et al., or any other equivalences known in the art.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.